Distressed bridges in Gujarat

3826. SHRI AHMED PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) total number of rail bridges which have been found to be distressed in Gujarat; and

(b) what steps Government have taken for rehabilitation or rebuilding of such bridges in the State within a time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) The position of Railway bridges is maintained Railway-wise and not State-wise. As on 1-4-2003, on Western Railway, which mostly covers Gujarat State, there are 19 Railway bridges identified to have developed some signs of distress. Out of these, 12 bridges have been targeted for completion during 2003-04 and remaining 7 bridges are planned to be completed by March 2005.

Theft from goods train

†3827. SHRI MOTILAL VORA :
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news appeared in media, 'Tarawari Station par malgadi se logon ne koyla loota';

(b) if so, how many times were the goods trains loaded with coal looted on the Tarawari Station during the last one year and how much coal and other commodities were stolen away from goods trains in the years 2000-01 to 2002-03;

(c) when and what arrangements have Government made to check this theft; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. But no such case was reported/registered at Tarawari Station over Panipat-Ambala section of Northern Railway during the years 2001-02 and 2002-03. As regards theft of other commodities during the last two financial years i.e. 2001-02 and 2002-03, thefts of stolen goods reported over Northern Railway is as under :—

Years	No. of cases reported
2001-02	419
2002-03	325

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) The following steps are being taken to curb such pilferages :—

1. Escorting of trains, carrying valuable and important consignments, as far as possible.

2. Intensive beat patrolling in yards and other affected areas/sections.

3. Joint checking at interchange points to take stock of the condition of wagons/seals, carrying consignments.

4. Conducting raids on the dens of criminals and receivers of stolen Railway property in order to bring them to book.

5. RPF armed pickets are posted/deployed in yards as far as possible.

6. Plain clothed RPF personnel are also deployed to collect criminal intelligence with a view to tracking down offenders.

7. Based on criminal intelligence, raids and searches are conducted on the dens of criminals/receivers of stolen property in order to bring them to book.

8. Dog squads are deployed for patrolling in yards and vulnerable areas as per their availability.

9. Close coordination between RPF, GRP and local police is maintained at various levels to apprehend criminals and receivers of stolen property.

A.C. train for local train service

3828. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways propose to introduce air conditioned trains for Mumbai local train service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?